المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

30 April 1993

H E Sharif-uddin Pirzada
Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Excellency,

Assalaam Alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatuhu.

I am delighted to learn of your appointment as Foreign Minister and offer you my warm congratulations and best wishes. May Allah help you and guide you in the service of Pakistan, Islam and the Muslim world.

We have learnt with profound sorrow and grave anxiety about the reported arrest and imprisonment of some 30 Arab Mujahideen who had fought valiantly for the cause of Islam in Afghanistan. Even more disturbing are the reports that Egypt's intelligence and security personnel have been allowed to interrogate the Mujahideen from Egypt held in Pakistan prisons.

May I point out that Egypt's intelligence and security apparatus has earned world-wide notoriety for its gruesome methods of torture, intimidation and humiliation to suppress and punish dissent. These have been documented by international human rights organisations such as Amnesty International, Middle East Watch and the Human Rights Division of the US Dpartment of State. Amnesty International published in 1991 a highly damning report about the shocking and inhuman treatment of political prisoners in Egypt under the title: 'Egypt: Ten Years of Torture'.

I am writing this to request your help in the release of these valiant Muslims and not to hand them over to their respective governments who are certain to treat them most brutally once in their hands. I hope you will also use your good offices to allow these Mujahideen to continue to enjoy asylum in Pakistan. However, if for any reason this be not possible, then they be allowed to go to any country of their choice.

With my warm regards and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

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